positioning and shape of the shaft **310** are selected to restrict rotation and translation of the display **110** attached thereto. For instance, when the shaft **310** is situated in a "length-wise" orientation as shown, translation of the coupling member **300** is precluded because a first side **316** of the shaft **310**, perpendicular to a translation path, exceeds the width of the channel portion **422**.

As further shown in FIG. **7**, the cross-sectional shape of the shaft **310** along with the shape of the perimeter edge **426** enable counter-clockwise (CCW) rotation of the shaft **310** by approximately ninety degrees (90°). However, any rotation well beyond ninety degrees is precluded since the first side **316** of the shaft **310** would come into contact with the perimeter edge **428**. Similarly, the cross-sectional shape of the shaft **310** discourages CW rotation of the display **110** when the electronic device **100** placed in the TABLET position.

Referring now to FIG. **8**, an exemplary embodiment of multiple layers of the interconnect area **440** within the body case **120** is shown. The interconnect area **440** features a slot **450** configured within the second body **140**. The slot **450** has a depth less than the length of the shaft **310** of the coupling member **300**. As a result, the shaft **310** protrudes from the second opening **420** of the body case **120**. The slot **450** is configured not only to retain the securing element **330** within the body case **120**, but also to permit translation of the securing element **330**.

Referring now to FIG. **9**, a cross-sectional view of the electronic device **100** of FIG. **7** along a cross-sectional line A—A is shown. Herein, the fastening element **320** of the coupling member **300** is inserted into the socket **340** and coupled to the display **110**. Therefore, any rotation or translation of the coupling member **300** causes corresponding rotation or translation of the display **110**.

As shown, the second opening **420** constitutes an opening for the slot **450** configured to enable rotation and translation of the coupling member **300**. According to one embodiment of the invention, the slot **450** comprises a first retention element **500** situated at a first end **510** of the slot **410**. The first retention element **500** provides a recess **520**.

When the electronic device **100** is placed in the TABLET position, the securing element **330** is partially inserted into the recess **520**. The recess **520** is sized so that the first retention element **500** applies downward forces against the securing element **330**. As a result, the coupling member **300** is maintained in this position even during rotation of the display **110**. The securing element **330** is disengaged from the recess **520** only when lateral forces are applied to translate the display **110**.

As shown, the slot **450** further comprises a second retention element **530** situated at a second end **540** of the slot **450**. The second retention element **530** is generally identical in construction to the first retention element **500** and provides a recess **550** sized to receive the securing element **330** of the coupling member **300**.

As shown in FIG. **10**, a cross-sectional view of the slot **450**, positioned within the second body **140** of FIG. **9**, along a cross-sectional line B—B is shown. Two flanges **560** and **570** may be attached to sidewalls **580** of the slot **450**. These flanges **560** and **570** extend inward toward each other so that the distance (d**1**) between flanges **560** and **570** is wider than any side of the shaft **310**, most notably a cross-sectional length of the shaft **310**. The distance (d**2**) between sidewalls **580** of the slot **310** is of sufficient length to allow rotation of the securing element **330**, but prevents unwanted lateral movement (i.e., rocking) of the coupling member **300**.

II. Modes of Operation

FIGS. **11**–**16** illustrate exemplary embodiments of the electronic device **100** being transformed from use as a tablet PC to a portable computer. This is accomplished through rotation and translation of the display **110** as described below.

Referring now to FIG. **11**, an exemplary embodiment of the electronic device **100** placed in a TABLET position is shown. Herein, the display **110** is mounted on the body case **120** via the coupling member and covers almost the entire body case **120**, excluding the pointing device **200** placed on the raised area **133** of the first body **130** and the camera **170** along the end **146** of the second body **140**.

Herein, software is deployed within the electronic device **100** to detect when the electronic device **100** is in the TABLET position (i.e., the display **110** is placed in a portrait orientation). When this position is detected, the software allows input data from either a writing instrument on the flat panel display **112** or a camera **170**. No input data from the keyboard is accepted. However, when the electronic device **100** is placed into the FREE-STANDING position (i.e., the display **110** is horizontally rotated and translated), the software allows input data from either the keyboard **210** or the camera **170**. No stylus input is accepted. This further improves operability of the electronic device **100**.

As shown in FIG. **12**, the display **110** is horizontally rotated. Herein, the keyboard **210**, integrated into the first body **130**, is partially exposed. In addition, more surface area of the second body **140** is exposed, while the first and second openings **400** and **420** still remain covered by the display **110**.

Referring now to FIG. **13**, an overhead view of an exemplary embodiment of the electronic device **100** placed in an INTERMEDIARY position is shown. Herein, the display **110** is now substantially centered over the body case **120** and continues to cover the hinge **150**, which precludes vertical rotation of the second body **140**. However, a portion of the keyboard **210** is visible. In general, the display **110** covers approximately fifty percent of the footprint for each body of the body case **120**.

After rotation of the display **110** by approximately ninety degrees (90°) in the CCW direction, the display interconnect **430** has moved along the first perimeter edge **402** of the first opening **400** from the first retention area **410** to the second retention area **412**.

In addition, the coupling member has been rotated by ninety degrees (90°) in the CCW direction, but still remains in the expanded portion **424** of the second opening **420**. In particular, the shaft **310** is rotated accordingly, and therefore, is now situated in a "width-wise" orientation where none of the sides of the shaft **310** that are perpendicular to the linear channel portion **422** exceed the width of the channel portion **422**.

Referring to FIG. **14**, a cross-sectional view of the electronic device of FIG. **13** along a cross-sectional line A—A is shown. Herein, the securing element **330** is rotated, but is still retained within the recess **520** formed by the retention element **500**.

Referring to FIG. **15**, an exemplary embodiment of the electronic device **100** placed into the FREE-STANDING position is shown. In general, the display **110** is adjusted by moving the coupling member along the channel portion **422** of the second opening **420**. As a result, the display **110** is positioned to clear the hinge **150** and exposes the entire first body **130**, including the pointing device **200** and keyboard **210**. This enables the second body **140**, along with the